The ${f B}$ oard of ${f V}$ eterans ${f A}$ ppeals is up to it's Old Tricks Again... Editorial by Arthur N. Bernklau



Several years ago, the Board Of Veterans Appeals (BVA) was caught again in a dishonest act when two of their lawyers were sent to federal prison for terms of 15 months each for the crime of altering and destroying disabled veteran's claims files. They destroyed these documents to avoid paying disability compensation claims. These BVA lawyers were Mr. Lawrence Gottfried, a BVA employee for 23 years (a senior attorney) and Ms. Jill Rygwalski, who was employed as a BVA attorney between 1990 - 1994, hired to review cases. Both of them revealed some of the "Tricks of the Trade" at their respective trials.

Board members and attorneys are paid each time they remand cases back to the regional offices (Veterans who have had their cases before the BVA are sadly familiar with the VA's sleazy remand game). Ms. Rygwalski, at one point, had about a 90 percent remand rate. Both Mr. Gottfried and Ms.

Rygwalski are guilty of altering and deleting documents in the claims file for years. Mr. Gottfried stole and destroyed documents in hundreds of veteran's claim files that we know

Federal agents found documents while searching a trash bag in the garbage of his Maryland home during a supposed "Sting Operation" run by the VA's Inspector General's Office. This operation revealed that investigators monitored 38 cases sent to Gottfried for eview, and found that he tampered with 32 of them. Both Gottfried and Rygwalski pleaded guilty to the crime, both were sent to "the slammer" for 15 months. For their reprehen-

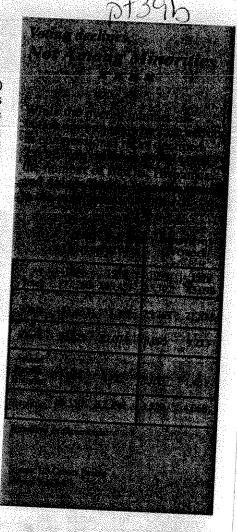
The Veterans Administration (VA), at that time, had promised that the hundreds of cases hat had been impacted by these attorneys actions would be reviewed, and reprocessed. We eel that all the cases these two thieving BVA lawyers ever touched in any way should be ompletely reviewed. The VA, as expected, has not kept it's promises, nor done anything n these cases, nor will anyone ever compel them to. My comments at that time in the tars and Stripes Newspaper (September 1994) was, "This VA Attorney caper is not new. hey're just the first to get caught. It's a lot more wide spread than we think. It's just the

Now, these same crimes are coming to light at the BVA. Apparently, another BVA attorey and a board member were caught with their fingers in the cookie jar. Claims files are nore than just rumored to having been altered and destroyed again by VA employees at the VA. This incident has been reported to us by three different and unrelated sources at three ifferent locations in our nation. It is supposedly another sting operation.

This time, however, the VA will not reveal the name of the guilty party(s). This party(s) supposed to be doing a public service. I have no doubt that the public service is being one at the VA (very likely at the same VA where the crimes were committed by the BVA) his is what we have to expect from the VA now, and in the future.

For many decades, the systemic problem of VA rating board members is that they are lying each other bonuses to deny disabled veterans claims. This has existed under the ise of VA Employee and Executive incentive programs. There is a multitude of these ograms under the auspices of the VA, and the American taxpayer is footing the bill, not nowing that many disabled veterans and their families are suffering under these predato-"incentive" programs. I would not be incorrect if I compared this "incentive" system, id the criminals, who participate in it with a feeding frenzy by a hungry pack of sharks. I see no basic difference between hiding the identity of this latest BVA criminal, and the A refusing to honor the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) search on the activities of e VA's Under Secretary Joseph Thompson since December of 1997. This pertains to his rticipation in VA Executive and Employee Incentive Programs during his ten-year tenure Director of the New York Regional VA Office, relating to the denying of veteran's serv-connected compensation and benefit claims. The New York Regional VA Office dur-3 Thompson's reign had one of the worst adjudication records in the nation, and still con-

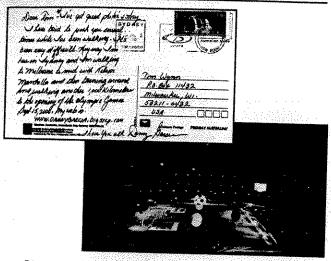
Twenty-four years of my own claims records had been cannibalized at that infamous gional office, and are still missing in action. I'm sure that the VA rating boards (the (TS) certainly have very active shredding machines. Written by Arthur N. Bernklau, ecutive Director - Veterans for Constitutional Laws.





Danny Garcia arrives in Australia....

His walk for Veterans, World Peace and Childrens Rights continues



Since December 1996, former U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, Danny Garcia, has walked over 26,000 kilometers throughout the United States,

Europe and the Middle East.

On Friday July 14, 2000 at 10:30 a.m. in Forrest Place, the city of Perth launched Danny's walk from Perth to Sydney. On July 24, 2000 Danny returned to Perth by vehicle over the weekend in order to regroup as funds dried up. There are now promising developments with support potential from govern-ment and corporate areas. The goal remains. The challenge is increasing and Danny is determined to complete his walk in

Sydney in time for the Openings of the Olympics.

While talks are continuing to enlist support and are not concluded, Danny is still in need of a support vehicle and one more driver. Danny is confident of support rising as his faith Garcia walks with children has been the hallmark of



his walk of over 25,000 km to date.

The media, including ABC, together with local news are reporting the mighty challenge Danny has already accepted, the pure logistics costs and basic needs are rising up as challenges. Danny already

Garcia meets with sponsors and supporters

has enough to face with the Australian continent to traverse. Hopefully these basic and logistic costs can be sponsored.

Danny plans to arrive in Sydney for

the opening of the 2000 Olympic Games on September 15, 2000.

Danny's Australian progress can be tracked on his website at:

www.dannygarcia.bigstep.com

The website is being updated by Danny's online correspondent and Perth friend, John Sullivan.

NABVETS New Jersey State Command

forges ahead with the HOPE Coalition



Members, friends and supporters of the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS) New Jersey State Command joined WBGO Jazz Radio and a host of community participants to enjoy a barbecue on a warm, summer day at the Newark Campus of Rutgers University.

Keeping with the theme of the "Veterans in Unity with the Community Movement," formalized by NABVETS in 1994, the New Jersey State Command has recently formed a "Veterans Community Working Group" in collaboration with the Coalition of

Hope.

The formation of this Veterans Community Working Group was the theme of the barbecue, as participants shared information regarding the many service needs of veterans in the Greater Newark area with the community at large. Information was distributed regarding:

☐ Homelessness

☐ Employment

☐ Counseling

☐ Criminal justice system issues

Health care, of special concern was the issue of high mortality rates between 18-35 years of men and women in Newark, especially the continuing growth of HIV/AIDS cases.

The Veterans Community Working Group collaboration is seeking a facility for a one-stop service center for veterans in the Newark, New Jersey area. Such a facility would offer service to veterans and their families, with a particular emphasis on meeting the needs of the entire family. The collaboration agrees that veterans' issues require a family centered structure in order to concretely deal with their many issues. "We have found that many of the young adults between the ages of 18-35 are children and grandchildren of men and women whom have served in the military," states James Credle, Secretary of the National Command Council-NABVETS.

The Coalition of Hope is comprised of twelve local community oriented entities. The Coalition advocates for services to meet the needs of all people in the Newark area and is committed to diversity and inclusion of all community members. The Coalition meets on the third Tuesday of each month with a current priority of finding a suitable space for its clients to receive and be referred internally for serv-

For more information on the Coalition of Hope or to support for the concept of Town Meetings on Health Care & HIV/AIDS for clients and a more comprehensive outreach to veterans and their families who reside in the Greater Newark Community., contact the coalition's Secretary, James Credle @ 973/353-5300. For more information on becoming involved in VUCS in the New Jersey area call 973/481-2876.

Expansion of Services

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently innounced the expansion of programs and services available to issist veterans in starting or growng a business through the signing of a partnership agreement with he U.S. Department of Veterans

mall usiness dministration

Signs agreement to expand services for veterans and appoints William Elmore

Affairs (VA) and the Association appoints of unum Estate of Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs). Administrator Aida Alvarez, VA Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober, nd Association of SBDC Executive Director Woodrow McCutchen igned the agreement with veterans advocate and Miss America

000, Heather French, in attendance.

The agreement calls for the SBA, the VA, and the Association of BDCs to publicize the programs and services available to the vetrans. The agreement was signed as part of the implementation of ne Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development ct of 1999, Public Law 106-50, which President Clinton signed ito law on August 16, 1999.

> William Elmore appointed to Veterans Business Development

Also recently, the SBA has appointed William Elmore to head fice of Veterans Business Development. William (Bill) Elmore, an perienced advocate for veterans services, has been named the new sociate administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration BA) Office of Veterans Business Development, SBA Administrator da Alvarez announced today. As associate administrator, Mr. more will oversee and promote the development of small business sources designed to provide entrepreneurial development services veterans owning or considering starting a small business.

Such resources include business and management training, counling and mentoring. "I am very excited about having someone as alified and talented as Bill representing the SBA's Office of terans Business Development," said Administrator Alvarez. "Bill's owledge of the needs of veterans will make him a highly effective ociate administrator." Before Mr. Elmore's appointment as assote administrator, he served as the executive director of the terans Service Center in St. Louis, MO. Mr. Elmore assisted in implementation of the Veterans Entrepreneur Training (VET) ogram in the St. Louis area and served as a member of SBA's

terans Affairs Task Force for Entrepreneurship.

Elmore's numerous accomplishments and extensive expertise in erans affairs earned him the United States House of presentatives Small Business Committee Veteran Advocate of the ir Award. The SBA named him as the Veteran Advocate Winner the State of Missouri for 1984, 1998 and 1999. Mr. Elmore is ive on many advisory boards, commissions and boards of direcs, including the Veterans Advisory Committees for Congressmen nes Talent and Richard Gephardt and SBA's National Advisory ard for the Small Business Development Center Program.

Public Law 106-50 mandates a 3 percent federal procurement I for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The SBA erans Business Outreach Program (VBOP) offers business traincounseling, technical assistance and mentoring to service-dised veteran business owners through the services of four selected anizations located in New York, Virginia, Florida and Texas. The Valso has a variety of loan guaranty programs to help veteran

>SE ⋅

or more information on SBA assistance to veterans and on lic Law 106-50 visit www.sba.gov/vets/. Additional information at SBA programs and services is available at SBA's Web site at v.sba.gov. Or call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA

PRESIDENT NAMES FIVE MEMBERS TO THE NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

On July 25, 2000 President William J. Clinton announced his intention to appoint Richard W. Danielson, Robert A. Glassman, Craig W. Hartzell, Arthur M. Lopez, and Ruth Lillian Young to serve as members of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

Members of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation are charged with the responsibility of expanding the provision of and improving access to technical assistance regarding entrepreneurship for the Nation's veterans. The Corporation will further assist veterans, including service-disabled veterans, with the information and expansion of small business concerns by working with and organizing public and private resources.

Appointed Members:

- Mr. Richard W. Danielson, of Cleveland, Ohio, served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War. Mr. Danielson is an officer in several veteran groups including the Chosin/Changjin Reservoir survivors known as the Chosin Few, the Korean War Veterans Association, and the Greater Cleveland Veterans Business Resource Council.
- Mr. Robert A. Glassman, of Concord, Massachusetts, served in the United States Army in Vietnam from 1966-1967. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of many community organizations, including The Boston Foundation, The William Joiner Foundation, and the Umass Foundation at Boston. Mr. Glassman is a member of the Mayor's AIDS Housing Task Force, and of other advisory boards.
- Mr. Craig W. Hartzell, of Morgantown, West Virginia, is a Decade Member of the Special Forces Association, a member of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (AFCEA), and is Past Chapter President and Member of the Northern West Virginia Chapter, National Contract Management Association (NCMA).
- Mr. Arthur Lopez of Riverside, California, is the Founder and President of Artlo Industries, Inc. He is currently Chairman of the Board of the Latin American Management Association (LAMA), the largest national association in the United States of Hispanic firms in technical and industrial pursuits. Mr. Lopez served in the United States Army during World War II. He was awarded two Battle Stars, the Army Occupation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the American Campaign Medal.
- Ms. Ruth Lillian Young, of Queens, New York, is an honorably discharged disabled veteran of the Vietnam War, having served in the United States, France, and Germany, with the Women's Army Corps (WAC's). She is the Chief Executive Officer of the Sutphin-Veterans Limited Partnership, a senior veterans housing complex, as well as the CEO and founder of two not for profit veterans housing and social service organizations, the New York State Coalition for Fairness to Veterans, Inc. and the Military Women of New York City & Friends, Inc.

Veterans Employment and Training Act



At a recent hearing, the Veterans Employment and Training Act (HR 4765) was proposed to the Veterans Affairs subcommittee on benefits. The Department of Labor (DOL) officially opposes the proposal. The bill, H.R. 4765, encourages priority for veterans as part of a restructuring of the way Labor runs veterans training programs. Espiridion "Al" Borrego, assistant secretary of labor for veterans employment and training, testified that the

bill would harm the DOL's veterans employment efforts. Raymond Boland, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary and Heather French, Miss America 2000 both

testified in support of the Act.

Several sources have alleged that Borrego phoned French and "tried to intimidate" her into changing her testimony after "insisting" that she furnish him a copy of her testimony in advance of the hearing. French reported to the Stars and Stripes that the reports have mischaracterized her reaction to the phone call.

According to the New York Times, Rep. Lane Evans of Illinois, the subcommittee's ranking Democrat, wrote Borrego to demand his resignation the day of the hearing. Evans said the subcommittee staff informed him that Borrego "suggested" to French "that her appearance before the subcommittee may not be in her best interest.

The following are excerpts from Raymond Boland's testimony:

"Today I am representing two distinct yet related veterans" organizations- the State of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), of which I am Secretary, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), of which I am the Legislation Committee Chairman. In this dual capacity, I bring you the collective voice of all state government in Veterans Affairs regarding the development of policy and legislation for the delivery of programs, benefits and services to our nation's veterans. I also bring the perspective of more than eight years of service as the Wisconsin Secretary of Veterans. Thanks for inviting Miss America."

"Enactment of H.R. 4765 will create an employment and training service that is outcome based as opposed to process driven. We strongly support the 5 year "demonstration" project; the 5 year state strategic plan; and the Labor Market Area Pilot Program. These elements of the legislation will allow for a best practice to evolve in the delivery of employment and training services to veterans. We applaud the provision for the creation of state pilot programs and we are eager to begin. We recommend that the states selected to participate have the freedom from current restrictions to be truly innovative and to be able to involve their state veterans' agencies. NGA, two days ago, first ever veterans affairs policy, includes vets employment position reference.

"Overall, knowledge levels are low, and much needs to be done to change this (town meetings, public radio call-in statewide). We have recently contracted professional public relations help in Wisconsin to design and implement a compre-

hensive outreach campaign. One of the first questions the PR firm asked us is "why wasn't the federal VA doing this?" One of their recommendations is that a poster (see above) go into every community in our state."

"For many years the states have shouldered the responsibility of promoting federal programs and benefits without resources or assistance from the VA. We all need help from the VA to accomplish the outreach needed to more fully inform veterans of benefits available to them. H.R. 3256 can help make this happen."

"Insufficient outreach and marketing is also a factor in the under-utilization of veterans employment services but our concerns with this issue are more fully addressed in H.R. 4765, The 21st Century Veterans Employment and Training Act.

H.R. 4765 is a step in the right direction to coincide with already enacted provisions of the Workforce Investment Act which mandates establishment of flexible plans. The current USDOL process of centralized governance and administration of employment and training services at the federal level while divergent operational agencies at the local level are actually providing the services tends to inhibit innovation and creativity at the local level. With the current restrictions, flexibility and creativity are lost. Mr. Chairman, we have actually seen situations where states have been warned by DOL that any state innovations in veterans' service delivery, even if they might enhance outreach and access but are outside the box, could result in the loss of federal grants."

"One recommendation we have for H.R. 3256 is that Section 7727, Annual Outreach Plan, be revised to include a subparagraph that specifically identifies the state veterans offices as consultants in the development of the annual outreach plan."

"Not only does the Workforce Investment Act encourage flexibility on the local level, but it also accommodates the shifting of responsibility and authority we have seen in recent years for veterans' programs to state government. The USDVA has established major partnership programs for state management of long-term care and the veterans' cemeteries. The states also perform the approval function for schools receiving G.I. Bill payments for student veterans. These precedents support your efforts for new actions in the labor arena that can result in similar success stories in efficiency and service through state government. Our ultimate recommendation is for the Congress to allow each Governor to decide where the vets' employment services are located, how they operate, who supervises them - while continuing to remain accountable to the Department of Labor for performance standards.

"These two bills can strengthen and build upon existing federal and state partnerships to achieve the best result in the most cost-effective manner.

Mr. Chairman, we believe strongly that state government should be an important part of the solution in improving service to our veterans.

"Please consider seriously this opportunity to push down federal programs that will work better with decentralized manage-

Raymond Boland, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

Eclipse's must read...



In the tradition of The Norton Anthology of Black Literature, Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African *Diaspora* by Sheree R. Thomas will introduce black Science Fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction writers to those who have not yet realized the depth and breadth

of their work, or even, in some cases, that it xists.

"Dark Matter" is a scientific term referring o a form of matter that has not been directly bserved, but whose existence can be deduced y its gravitational effects on other bodies. Thosen by the anthology's editor Sheree R. homas, the term serves as a powerful netaphor for this extraordinary anthology of riters who have had an irrefutable impact on ne field of science and speculative fiction.

The purpose of Dark Matter is to illumiate that impact, and to present the decorated

riters of today who maintain it.

Including work by Steven Barnes, Octavia . Butler, Samuel R. Delany, Tananarive Due, welle Gomez, Walter Mosley, Ishmael Reed, 1d many more... From the bittersweet lessons f the African Diaspora to the rich complexies of modern experience to utterly phantasagoric future civilizations, here is a collecon of stories that transmute our world...Dark

"A fascinating collection that will provoke bate and delight well into this millennium." -Vibe Magazine

"Dark Matter, a book that will doubtless ergize some talk in the speculative fiction siness and among fans of the genre... Dark atter signals that this genre---which many icks thought had nothing to offer them culally---has a rich repository of fine black iters and African characters, stories and senilities. Octavia E. Butler is one of the mass of current science fiction."

-Martin Arnold "Arts" section New York

To read more about DARK MATTER or other ks available through Time Warner Trade Publishing, their site at http://www.halala.com. This website is cated to the African American community and ors and features books ranging from Biographies Science Fiction to Children's Books and Mysteries.

91st Convention held in Baltimore

Founded in 1909 in New York City by a group of black and white citizens committed to social justice, the National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's largest and strongest civil rights

The NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of the United States and eliminate race prejudice. The NAACP seeks to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes. This mission is accomplished by seeking the enactment and enforcement of federal, state and local laws securing civil rights, and by informing the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination.

From school desegregation, fair housing, employment and voter registration, to health and equal economic opportunity, the NAACP, working successfully with allies of all races, plays a significant role in establishing legal precedents in order to improve the quality of life of America's downtrodden.

NAACP founders include Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard and William English Walling. They answered a clarion "Call" to renew the struggle for civil and political liberty in response to the unrelenting lynching of blacks that were occurring with impunity in 1909.

The NAACP is now a network of more than 2,200 affiliates covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Japan and Germany. Headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, total membership exceeds 500,000.

Kweisi Mfume as the organization's President /Chief Executive Officer is the NAACP's official spokesperson. Julian Bond is Chairman of the National Board

The NAACP's 91st Convention was held July 7 - July 13, 2000 in Baltimore, Maryland. With the aim of breaking the ultra-right grip on government while blazing new paths toward equality, delegates to the NAACP's 91st Convention cheered calls to finish the group's "Race to Vote 2000," a voter registration project that has already enrolled three million new voters. The goal is to register four million by Election Day and get them to the polls.

In his opening address to 10,000 delegates and guests from every state and the District of Columbia, who crowded the Baltimore Convention Center, NAACP Board Chairman Julian Bond, debunked Texas Gov. George W. Bush's pose as a "compassionate conservative."

The former Georgia state representative warned, "Whether the next president names one, two, or three justices to the Supreme Court, our rights will be on the line," he said. "The court's radical fringe has sent clear signals that they want to eliminate voting rights and end affirmative action."

The next president

will also "name a

"Most people, particularly those who are poor, Cabinet that will Black, white...don't understand the machinations of look like America or the stock market," NAACP President Kweisi Mfume

team," he said as the crowd erupted in laughter.

NAACP President Kweisi Mfume picked up the theme in his keynote July 10, blasting Bush's plan to privatize Social Security. "Most people, particularly those who are poor, Black, White ... don't understand the machinations of the stock mar-

"They're not prepared to go out and wheel and deal on Wall Street. Those few dollars are all that they have. They want to have that money when they get there.

Recruiting Efforts equal B_{ig} D_{ollars}

Is it really working?

"For the first time since 1997, all four services are expected to meet their enlistment goals in the year 2000, thanks to a big recruiting push at the Pentagon including an unprecedented and creative use of the Internet, more recruiters and a host of incentives."

Really?

Enticing young men and women into the armed forces is getting exceedingly expensive, officials say. Incentives offered in the last couple of years include such things as better pay, more enlistment bonuses, shorter service time and computers in barracks for those who want to get an online education while they serve. In the past five years, the cost per new service member has risen by as much as 74 percent in the case of the Air Force and by double digits for the other branches.

At the same time, two of the military's four branches, the Army and Air

Force, are failing to reach their recruitment goals.

Although the Army spent more than \$11,000 for every soldier it recruited this year, it missed its goal by 6,300.

While the Air Force raised recruitment spending 28 percent this year -shelling out \$5,403 per airman -- it fell short of its goal by 1,700.

The Navy reached its goal for the year only after spending 38 percent more in 1999 than in 1995 -- a total of \$8,835 per recruit.

The Marine Corps spent the least per recruit -- \$6,006 each.

The military spent a total of \$1.8 billion this year to attract 186,000 active-duty personnel.

In direct opposition to recruiting efforts, the National Veterans Organization (NVO) has put up highway billboards in Texas blasting the message "Thinking about a military career? Think again! The government does not honor its promises to veterans!" The Stars and Stripes reported that Secretary William S. Cohen was concerned that the billboard message could aggravate the military's recruiting and retention problems.

Furthermore, military retirees in Virginia Beach, VA have raised \$5,500 and rented a billboard reading, "Military Retirees Fought for Freedom, Now Congress Denies Earned Healthcare. Show your support. Call your con-

gressman."

Food Stamps for Vets?

Hoping to turn around an embarrassing problem, the Pentagon has proposed giving grocery store debit cards to low-income troops, so they would no longer have to use food stamps.

Secretary of Defense William Cohen said the plan to subsidize military members' food purchases with an in-house Department of Defense program would cost the Pentagon \$31 million a year. It also would help some people who didn't qualify under the traditional Agriculture Department food stamp program.

The idea must be approved by Congress and could begin within a year after such approval. In 1998, approximately 6,300 U.S. troops were on food stamps. That was greatly reduced from the 12,000 who got them in 1995 and represents less than 1% of the 1.4 million men and women in uniform.

But the problem has become a political issue, with Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush deploring that any U.S. soldier would have to receive such assistance. Vice President Al Gore has urged Congress to act on the proposal promptly.

Tracing the Roots

Identities & Backgrounds of Slaves are Beginning to Emerge

For nearly two centuries, the names of tens of thousands of slaves who were bought and sold repeatedly throughout the south in the early 1800s are thought to have been lost in time.

Black families often lack the resources for the extensive detective work required to find their original African forebears, and many white families simply did not want to know about slave-

holding ancestors.

Now, however, the identities and backgrounds of Louisiana slaves are beginning to emerge from centuries of anonymity, infusing property once sold like livestock. Thanks to years of painstaking work by a 71-year-old historian who lives in a small house in New Orleans (LA). An enormous amount of information is suddenly coming to light about the captives who were brought to Louisiana in huge numbers in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, New Orleans native who has devoted much of her life to the study of slavery, spent 15 years in the courthouses of Louisiana, as well as in archives in Spain, France and Texas, seeking all records of slave transactions and entering them into laptop computers. Aided by several research assistants, she eventually amassed computerized records on more than 100,000 slaves - the largest collection of individual slave information ever assembled - and in March 2000 the Louisiana State University Press published the documents as a searchable database on a CD-ROM.

Another CD-ROM, compiled at Harvard University and published in December 1999 by Cambridge University Press, documented more than 27,000 trans-Atlantic slave ship voyages, describing their human cargo, their points of origin and destination, and the outcome of the voyages. A popular Webs site, www.afrigeneas.com, has collected and published large amounts of slave data and encourages those tracing their roots to share their information with others on the Internet. Genetic researchers have been assembling a DNA database that may someday allow African-Americans to tract their origin to specific regions in Africa.

Burroughs, an African-American genealogist who lectures widely on the subject, said the Louisiana database is as significant as the publication of Alex Haley's "Roots" in 1976, in part because the demand is even greater now for accessible information. It also provides hope to those who believed they could never trace their origins back more than a few generations.

Excerpted from article by David Firestone,

New York Times.

The Arts A Tool for Reaching Youth at Risk

In our search for ways to reach young people, and to help them learn and mature, the arts can be a valuable tool. Because the arts - music, dance, theatre, interance, visual arts - are a language that all people have in common, they are also a way to bridge gaps between countries, religious; cultures, and economic cannot be a search and a search are also a way to bridge gaps between countries.

us nonverbal means of communicating, they reach beyond language to what makes us human. Because the arts are so basic to humanity, they are also vital to the health of our minds and souls.

And, of course, the arts are an important part of every child's education and preparation for life. New initiatives in education incorporate the arts into other

subjects, or use the arts as tools for teaching.

In addition to being fields of study on their own, the arts can

be a means of learning about areas such as mathematics, literacy, chemistry, physics, history, physical education, or computer sciences.

Education in the arts contributes to the overall quality of a child's education, and builds critical thinking skills. The arts can make areas of study more interesting, and an interested student learns more, and does better at his/her studies. Studies have shown that children who study the arts have higher SAT scores than those who do not. And the arts also offer alternative learning processes and areas of achievement that allow more students to succeed in the classroom.

An arts education also helps children to develop skills toward being a productive part of the workforce, including self-discipline, teamwork, social skills, working toward a higher goal, creativity, how to think and work across traditional disciplines, higher-level cognitive skills, emotional control, self-



assurance, and the personal value patience and persistence. Contains arts helps to build values that even children to themselves and to these culture and civilization, as well as helps them to understand other cultures.

Non-profit arts, community, and selectional organizations throughout the U.S. work to advance arts education both in and out of the classroom. It hebraska, the Nebraska Arts Council (state agency funded by the Nebraska Legislature and National Endowment for the Arts) helps to fund a variety of arts education projects that reach both youth at risk and young people who seed an arena for self-expression and achievement.

Through the arts, young people can find self-confidence and an improve self-image. They can find more value and a sense of achievement, learn to se goals, and develop self-discipline. The arts are not the only means of helping arrisk youth to find their way to the future but they can be a very valuable tool. It the battle to give our young people the best possible future, it is a tool that ear make the difference for many of them Linda Hughes, Nebraska Arts Council.

"Education in the arts contributes to the overall quality of a child's education, and builds critical thinking skills."

Every culture shares the arts. Music, storyielling and theatre, dance, and visual arts and crafts are international and gelects. We all react to and understand he beat of a drum, the shape of a carving, the lesson of a story, the rhythm of poem. The arts are the way humans ave always communicated deeper mesages to each other, the way we celerate and mourn. Those of us who do of create are always capable of appreciting what has been created. Even cultures that did not develop writing communicated tradition and meaning unicated tradition and images.

Because the arts are so powerful in reating and conveying culture, they are so a powerful tool to connect cultures. ecause they give us the power to cree, they help us to understand and oppreciate Creation. Because they offer

"The Invisible Soldiers: Unheard Voices"



PBS National Broadcast November 9, 2000 at 10pm EST

Call your local PBS Station for exact local time

REMEMBERING HEROES

Black Soldiers is not a well spoken word, but to our ears it must be heard Because Black Soldiers fought alongside of me And will be remembered throughout history, They were out there protecting you and me Truly much further than the eye can see Proud brothers deserving merits and decorations Looking out for our freedom with devoted exaltations, Devout brothers whom we patronize Being absolute heroes whom we recognize These distinguished soldiers of liberty Defending America to a high degree, Dedicated to the red, white and blue So magnificently loyal and true There are proud memories of these men Whom should never be forgotten, I visualize in front of me this dignitary Who is of high esteem and has popularity For Black Soldiers is a well spoken word, and to my ears I have heard.

By Richard Dantino

Day of Honor 2000 Project Continues to Salute Minority WWII Veterans

May 25, 2000 was a historic day for the nation, particularly for African

American, Asian American, Hispanic and Native American World War II Veterans, because the United States Congress passed the resolution for the National Day of Honor for this day. In addition, President Bill Clinton signed The Day of Honor 2000 Proclamation.

The Day of Honor Resolution, which honors the service of minority veterans, is the first resolution of its kind to pass both Houses of Congress. The Resolution gives long overdue recognition to the valiant service of more that 1.2 million African Americans, 300,000 Hispanic Americans, 50,000 Asian Americans, 20,000 Native Americans, 6,000 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders and 3,000 Native Alaskans.



President William J. Clinton signed a Day of Honor 2000 Proclamation.

Day of Honor 2000 Project Executive, William H. Smith, Ed.D., said, "this long overdue recognition is a form of moral reparation, it acknowledges the rightful place of valor to those pioneering men and women who paved the way for the freedoms minorities enjoy today in America."

The Congressional Day of Honor Resolution calls for "communities across the United States to participate in celebrations to honor minority veterans of World War II ...throughout the year 2000." Smith said, "the Day of Honor 2000 Executive Board encourages communities to continue to hold Day of Honor observances until May 25, 2001." He adds, "we feel there should be at least a full year from the date of the proclamation for communities to organize and hold events. After all, it has taken over fifty-five years to get the recognition."

The Day of Honor was celebrated in Washington DC with an all day program which began with a wreath laying at the



William Smith with members of the Washington DC Motor Club honored World War II vets with an escort to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Following the wreath laying, over one hundred minority WWII veterans and other special guests joined together for a ceremony at the White House.

The remainder of the day's activities were held at Howard University. Including, a panel discussion by minority WWII

veterans scholars, the screening of "We Served with Pride," a documentary about Chinese Americans in World War II and an art exhibit featuring works that centered African Americans in WWII. A Day



Floyd Dade, Henry Wakabyashi, Dr. Dorothy Putnum and James Ferguson (all World War II Veterans) share their World War II experience at a Day of Honor 2000 Discussion Panal

of Honor Memorial Stone was lain outside of the Rankin Chapel on the Howard University Campus.

The event closed with a Gala Reception at The Blackburn Center at Howard University. Renowned speakers at the reception included US Senator (Ret.) Edward Brooke, who served in Italy in the 366th Infantry Regiment in WWII, and Congresswoman (TX) Shelia Jackson-Lee. The evening ended with the screening of the award winning documentary film, "Invisible Soldiers Unheard Voices."

The Day of Honor Committee for the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin is one of several major cities planning events into 2001. It's Day of Honor is planned for May 17, 2001. Events are planned for several other major cities in February 2001



Tom Wynn, Sr. (Chair, National Coordinating Mississippi and Ports-Committee - NABVETS) with US Sen. (Ret) Edward Brooke at the Day of Honor 2000 Gala

(Detroit, Chicago, and Atlanta). The Day of Honor City Update shows that there are presently over one hundred and twentyfive cities who have held or are organizing Day of Honor events across the nation, including small towns like Yazoo City mouth, New Hamp-"Any person shire. who is motivated and interested can organ-

ize a local Day of Honor" according to Smith.

There are a number of agencies and organizations willing to help. Local NAACP Branches, Urban League Affiliates, and Links are some of the groups spearheading local organizing efforts. Some basic guidelines for organizing local Day of Honor observances are in the display on the next page.

www.dayofhonor2000.org

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZING A LOCAL DAY OF HONOR

Local Day of Honor Observances

The mayors and elected leaders of every municipality in America are called upon to proclaim a local "Day of Honor or Minority World War II Veterans." These events will include official proclamations and commemorative activities ocusing on minority World War II Veterans. Local Day of Honor Observances can be organized by any civic, business, religious, educational, or service organization. The Day of Honor 2000 Project office will help interested parties get organized. A range of local civic and community service organizations are serving as organizers and co-hosts to local Day of Honor Observances. These organizations include branches of the NAACP, local Urban League affiliates, local and regional Minority Supplier Development Councils, the local minority veterans coordinators at area VA Medical Centers, churches, museums, and veterans service organiza-

Key Reasons for Organizing A Local Day of Honor Observance in Your Town

- 1. By organizing a Day of Honor Observance, your community acknowledges the extraordinary service of a group of heroes --African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, & Native American World War II veterans - who have been virtually unmentioned in media and education in American society for over 50 years.
- In organizing a Day of Honor Observance, your community makes a clear moral statement that injustices can be addressed by ordinary people who have the ethical and spiritual fortitude to help correct past wrongs.
- Through organizing a Day of Honor Observance your community demonstrates to young people a leadership model that values human diversity and inclusion. These qualities, when combined, are our nation's greatest strength.
- Organizing a Day of Honor Observance is a step in bridging the great racial divide which is America's most challenging issue.

What are the Key Aspects of a Day of Honor Observance?



Official Proclamation for the Day of Honor Observance

Because minority service and sacrifice in World War II have gone unrecognized, a key element in the Day of Honor Observance is having a proclamation issued by the community's governing authority, whether it is the Mayor, Selectmen, Town Council or Town Manager or others. In some communities where there is more than one governing authority, one is sufficient. However, there is no reason a proclamation cannot be issued from more than one source, unless prohibited through By Laws, e.g. only the Mayor can issue official proclamations on behalf of the city or town. An example of language to be used in official proclamations is in this pamphlet.

Reception to Honor Minority World War II Veterans

A reception to honor the local minority World War II veterans can be an important part of the Day of Honor Observance. This is a /ay for local veterans to receive personal recognition for their contributions. Many communities will invite local veterans, their famies, community leaders and others to a public reception that features the reading of a proclamation announcing the Day of Honor. Vhere a screening area is available, a showing of one or more of the videos offered in this guide is suggested. Receptions can be held t city hall, the public library, a local veterans' organization, a hotel or restaurant or other public venue. The veterans can be located rough veterans' organizations, churches, local media and neighborhood contacts. In addition, local media are likely to be interested

Support Materials for Day of Honor Activities

Day of Honor Floppy Disk, contains templates for letters to mayor and other officials to participate, sample proclamations, a copy f the Day of Honor Resolution, sample letters for sponsor support, invitations, sample program book layout, pictures for use in proram book, the Day of Honor Logo for reproduction for local use, and useful resources to make the organizing fort go smoothly. \$15 includes shipping & handling.

Fact Sheet on African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, & Native Americans in World War \$25/per 100 plus \$5 shipping/handling.

Day of Honor & "The Invisible Soldier" Poster Set (can be dry mounted or displayed with thumb tacks/staples 20"X30") Set (2 posters) \$30 plus \$5 shipping/handling 2 Sets (4 Posters) for \$50 plus \$10 shipping/handling. After 2 sets add \$25 us \$10 shipping for each additional set ordered.

Video, "African Americans In World War II: A Legacy of Patriotism." Award winning documentary which chronicles African American service in all branches of service during World War II. 70 minutes \$24.95 includes shipping/

Video, "The Invisible Soldiers: Unheard Voices" Award winning documentary which focuses on the harsh conditions ider which African Americans served in World War II. The film includes interviews with WWII veteran and retired Senator Edward rooke, the first African American US Senator in the twentieth century, US Senator Daniel Inouye WWII veteran, commentary by storians Douglas Brinkley and Walter Hill of the National Archives and rarely seen footage of African Americans in WWII. 53 min-

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE DAY OF HONOR WEB SITE WWW.DAYOFHONOR2000.ORG



Black Military and Veterans News Alliance

A Much Needed Black Military News Network



The publishers of the Bronze Warrior Newspaper and the Eclipse Magazine recently met to discuss the creation of a historic news and information network for African American active duty military and veterans. The result of the meeting held in Washington DC was the creation of the Black Military and Veteran News Alliance (BMVNA). In the near future, Black military organizations will be asked to join the BMVNA.

"It's a great start," commented Bronze Warrior Editor, Gregory Black. "This alliance is long overdue. It's amazing, how many Black military and veterans organizations there are out there who are doing a lot of great things, but nobody knows. Each day, Black individuals are making military history, doing great things, but are virtually unknown. Each day, Black individuals are making military history, doing awesome things, but again, who knows? Blacks in the military represent the largest occupational group of Blacks in the country (280,000 active duty, plus 50,000 National Guards and Reservists). The primary purpose of the alliance is to unite our active military and veterans to effectively spread the word.

The Bronze Warrior is a free monthly newspaper produced and distributed primarily in the Washington DC, Virginia and Maryland areas, and to military personnel nationwide via subscription. Although still in its infancy, the publication has attracted attention nationwide as an overdue source of credible news and information for military minorities. Currently, no

The Milwaukee based Eclipse Magazine was created in 1973 by the National Association for Black Veterans (NAB-VETS), and is now published quarterly. The Eclipse was originally produced in a newspaper format but changed to its pres-

Tom Wynn, Sr., Eclipse Publisher, said, "When we saw a copy of the Bronze Warrior, we were impressed by its content and production. Consequently, when approached by the Bronze Warrior staff for a meeting in Washington, DC we were delighted and honored to meet with their staff. As it turned out, we are both extremely committed to the same mission and the meeting progressed very smoothly."

The Bronze Warrior will concentrate on contemporary news, entertainment and history, the Eclipse will focus on major issues and congressional level concerns of Blacks Veterans and active duty members. Both will present interesting and little

known segments of African American military history.

According to Brigadier General Robert A. Cocroft, Economic Advisor to NABVETS, "Both of these publications will prove invaluable to Blacks in the military seeking to further their military careers or transition into the civilian sectors. Actually, there are special concerns and circumstances that effect Blacks and other minorities only. That's just the way it is. But we don't have to be blind to them any longer. If we continue efforts like this, we can even change a lot of things."

Some of the elements of the Alliance melode:

Shared news and informational sources of current events and issues of Blacks in the military

Joint Marketing

Joint sponsorship of conferences of Black military groups seeking awareness and support

Sharing staff resources

Advertising sales packages

Joint distribution

WEBSITE development

"This is a great effort," quoted CDR Black. "We are working on building a massive Black military WEBSITE. The site will contain information about all black military organizations, a huge data file of current and past facts and figures concerning blacks in the military. We will also develop the world's largest Black military history file. If the data is readily avail-

able, more Black youths will hopefully choose Black military figures as subjects of research projects."

NABVETS members receive the Eclipse at no cost; non-members are charged an annual subscription fee. Both publications rely on advertising sales as a primary means of financial support. According to the Bronze Warrior Advertising Manager, "Collectively, the Black military consumer market is one of the largest, richest, most educated Black consumer markets in the country. Although many businesses know this, there has never been a direct conduit to this market." By pooling together and offering reasonable advertising packages, businesses will be able to reach a large segment of this market

To learn more about the Alliance contact: Lenora Robinson, Bronze Warrior Newspaper #301-270-2221 or Jill Grisham, Eclipse Magazine #1-800-842-4597, or Write: The Black Military and Veterans New Alliance, 6475 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 201, Hyattsville, MD 20783-3269.



VETERANS UNITED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

In 1992 the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc. (NABVETS) was the first veterans organization in history to receive the NAACP's "Community Service" award. The problem is if you are ... of African ancestry you don't get to 65 that often. But if we're not even getting to 65 and you want to take what little we have and tell us we

can't get it until we are 70, we want to say that we're not fools and we're not going to stand for that. Leave Social Security alone and don't mess with the retirement age!"

Mfume greeted Black farmers, many from across the Deep South, who have been fighting racist discrimination

in the Agriculture Department's farmer loan programs. He received a roaring ovation when he announced that the NAACP is assisting Black farmers - to reach "beyond the borders" of the country loved, 90 miles south, to the nation of Cuba where everybody else is going.

Both Nader and Clinton appeared during the time originally slated for President Clinton, whose visit was postponed so he could help the Palestinians and the Israelis work out their vast differences

While Hilary Clinton has long been considered a blue-eyed soul sister by many in the NAACP audi-

"When you get taken for granted, you get taken," Ralph Nader.



William Sims, treasurer of the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc. (NABVETS) National Command Council, along with several other NAB-VETS members, attended the NAACP Convention

ence, Ralph Nader was more of an

unknown quantity. But by the time he laid out an agenda that promotes campaign finance reform, a \$10 an hour livable wage, universal health insurance and attacks on corporate welfare, the death penalty and environmental racism, he made some in the audience wake up.

"I know he swayed some votes," said NAACP Chairman Julian Bond. After Nader's speech, he was swamped by admirers in an area behind the podium, out of view of the audience, Bond said.

Regarding reparations, he said corporations that profited from slavery should be required to pay for their sins. When he is asked about affirmative action, Nader says he replies by asking if the question refers to "300 years of White male affirmative action."

Clinton received a hearty applause when she said the Confederate flag is a "symbol of the worst chapter in American history" and a standing ovation when she repeated President Clinton's call to mend, not end, affirmative action.

Without mentioning Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who addressed the convention Monday and his conservative compassion slogan, Mrs. Clinton said, "we need to move beyond compassion" to conviction for the principles of justice in America. "Watch what they do, not what they say," she warned the crowd about Republicans.

Another Democrat, Vice President Al Gore, will bring his presidential campaign to the NAACP convention on Wednesday. Gore needs a high Black voter turnout, that votes for him overwhelmingly, to beat Bush. This will be friendly turf for Gore, just as it was for Mrs. Clinton and will be for the president. Yet many in the crowd could agree with Nader when he said both major parties take voters for granted. "And when you get taken for granted," he concluded, "you get taken."

Excerpted from Joe Davidson, commentator with NPR's "Morning Edition," BET website and NAACP Website.



(301) 270-2200 toll free: (800) 809-4002 (fax) 800 379-5557



National Association for Black Veterans, inc.

Along with

Day of Honor 2000

PRESENT ...

A special offer for new members and existing members who extend their membership.

This outstanding gift offer is for a limited time only and will not be repeated.

Anyway You Look at it, You are a Winner!

Due to popular demand, this offer is extended to December 31, 2000!

NABVETS, with the support of Pevue, Inc.,
is offering a unique gift to new members and members who joined as of January 1, 2000.
This offer is in spirit of the Day of Honor National Campaign
to honor African American World War II Veterans.

ACTIVE 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP \$20 1 year subscription to Eclipse Magazine (4 issues) Plus NABVETS Bumper sticker-\$2.50 Gift!

ACTIVE 2 YEAR MEMBERSHIP \$35
2 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO ECLIPSE MAGAZINE (8 ISSUES)
NABVETS BUMPER STICKER - \$2.50 Gift!
Plus Official NABVETS MEMBERSHIP lapel pin- \$5 Gift!

ACTIVE 3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP \$55
3 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO ECLIPSE MAGAZINE (12 ISSUES)
NABVETS BUMPER STICKER - \$2.50 Gift!
Official NABVETS MEMBERSHIP lapel pin - \$5 Gift!
Plus a copy of award winning documentary film "African Americans in World War II: A Legacy of Patriotism and Valor" - \$19.95 Gift!

SILVER LIFETIME MEMDERSHIP \$250
Lifetime subscription to Eclipse Magazine
NABVETS Bumper sticker - \$2.50 Gift!
Official NABVETS membership lapel pin - \$5 Gift!
Set of 2 NABVETS Eclipse mugs - \$24 Gift!
Plus a copy of award winning documentary film "African Americans in World War II: A legacy of Patriotism and Valor" - \$19.95 Gift!

NABVETS P.O. Box 11432 Milwaukee, WI 53211

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT #3276

Gold Lifetime membership \$500

Lifetime subscription to Eclipse Magazine
NABVETS Bumper sticker - \$2.50 Gift!
Official NABVETS membership lapel pin - \$5 Gift!
Set of 4 NABVETS Eclipse mugs - \$48 Gift!
Copy of "The Invisible Soldiers: Unheard Voices" - \$24.95 Gift!
Set of 2 Framed color WWII Posters featuring African Americans
Plus a copy of award winning documentary film
"African Americans in World War II: A legacy of Patriotism and Valor" \$19.95 Gift!

DIAMOND LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$1000
Lifetime subscription to Eclipse Magazine
NABVETS Bumper sticker - \$2.50 Gift!
Official NABVETS membership lapel pin - \$5 Gift!
Set of 6 NABVETS Eclipse mugs - \$72 Gift!
Copy of "The Invisible Soldiers: Unheard Voices" - \$24.95 Gift!
A copy of award winning documentary film "African Americans in World War II: A Legacy of Patriotism and Valor" - \$19.95 Gift!
Set of 2 Framed color WWII Posters featuring African Americans
Submission in drawing to receive One of 5 known
WWII Flag Embroidered WWII Baseball Caps autographed by General
Colin Powell (From the 50th Anniversary Celebration of WWII)



SEE MAGAZINE TEAR-OUT FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR CALL NABVETS AT 1-800-842-4597

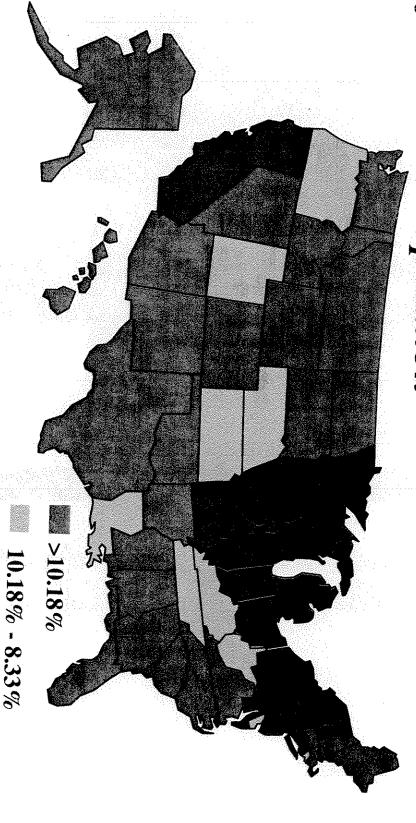
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

2001 - 2003 Budget Service Delivery Initiative

"Making a Difference for Wisconsin Veterans"

2000 Compensation Cases %





National average per capita 9.25%

< 8.33%

payments to veterans range from \$100 - \$2,000. (9.25% of all veterans are rated) have a service connected disability rating from the USDVA. Direct monthly FY data showing the percentage of veterans population in each state that

4,797 8.09% 110,793 7.97% 51,222 7.69% 41,809 7.63% 197,243 7.52% 81,600 7.38% 90,436 7.18% 90,436 6.89% 60,641 6.87% 18,119 6.75% 20,471 6.69% 54,309 5.55%	110, 51,2 41,8 197, 81,6 90,4 38,2 60,6 18,1 20,4,	268,435 306,219 979,117	ILLINOIS	10.42%	SAC'D CORR	140 740	HAVA/AII
97 793 793 209 243 243 36 36 38 36 37 41 6 71	110 51, 41, 197 81, 90, 90, 60, 18,	306,219				1	
97 793 793 809 809 800 800 800 800 800 800 800 800	110 51, 41, 197 81, 90, 90, 60, 18,	268,435	CONNECTION	-C.## /ô	5,000	53 7/8	NORTH DAKOTA
97 793 793 809 809 800 800 800 800 800 800 800 800	110 51, 41, 197 81, 90, 38, 60,			10 4/0/	13 300	128 206	NEW HAMPSHIRE
97 793 793 809 809 800 800 800 800 800 800 800 800	110 51, 41, 197 81, 38,	000,000	IOMA C. II.	10 75%	38 989	362.847	SOUTH CAROLINA
97 793 793 2022 209 309 300 300	110 51, 41, 197 81, 90,	883 003	MICHIGAN	10.91%	23,739	217,644	MISSISSIPPI
	51, 41, 197 81, 90	555 377	INDIANA	11.11%	59,564	536,148	MASSACHUSETTS
	110 110 197	1,259,233	PENNSYLVANIA	11.12%	20,389	183,310	NEVAUA
	110 197	1,105,328	OHO	11.14%	48,739	437,654	AKKONA
	4 5 6	2,623,450	CALIFORNIA	11.20%	16,384	146,284	MAINE
	51 10	547,679	MISSOURI	11.30%	76,349	675,656	NOR H CAROLINA
	10	666,054	NEW JERSEY	11.30%	11,889	105,194	IDAHO
97	-	1,390,569	NEW YORK	11.36%	185,387	1,632,387	TLORIDA
	4.7	59,262	VERMONT	11 38%	76,054	668,377	VIRGINIA
999	34	430,283	MINNESOTA	11.40%	74,637	654,447	GEORGIA
571	40,	497,942	MARYLAND	11.42%	7 920	69,349	SCOTH DAKOTA
631	38	473,252	WISCONSIN	11.50%	176,418	1,533,919	IEXAS
┪	21	241,298	KANSAS	11.65%	41,668	357,591	COLORADO
554	31	351,528	OREGON	11.81%	70,781	599,531	WASHINGTON
706	6,7	73,927	DELAWARE	11.85%	5,003	42,233	WYOMING
971	32	341,926	LOUISIANA	11.93%	28,906	242,357	ARKANSAS
366	34	345,396	KENTUCKY	12.02%	10547	87,769	MONTANA
420	<u>-</u>	154,808	NEBRASKA	12.06%	48,574	402,809	ALABAMA
834	48	488,705	TENNESSEE	12.81%	20,832	162,674	NEW MEXICO
495	3	184,495	WEST VIRGINIA	13.32%	42,105	316,198	OKLAHOMA
022	5	99,825	RHODE ISLAND	14.76%	6,570	44,502	DISTRICT OF COL
709	12	126,504	HATU	14.91%	9,259	62,112	ALASKA
ğ	8	Vet Pop		w/Comp	Comp	Vet Pop	
tive % Pop	Ac	2000 est	State	% Pop	Active	2000 est	State

Case data taken from USDVA report April 6, 2000

Statistics for Veterans Receiving Compensation and Pension Benefits

National Compensation Cases by % Veterans Population

Compensation Cases 2000 Wisconsin, County Data

(% of veteran population receiving compensation)



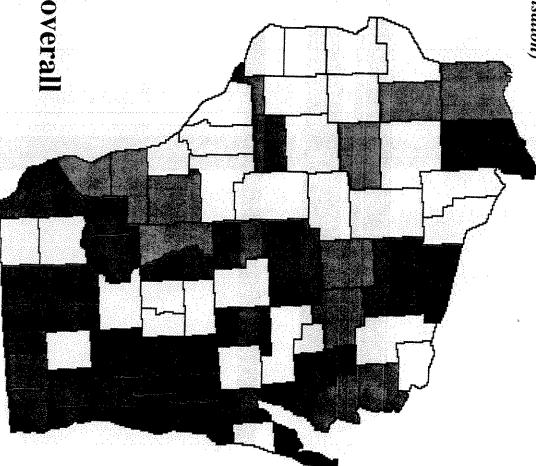
10.17% - 8.33%

< 8.33%

National average per

capita 9.25%

Wisconsin ranks 36th overall with 8.16%





Percent of veterans population receiving compensation by county Wisconsin Compensation Cases

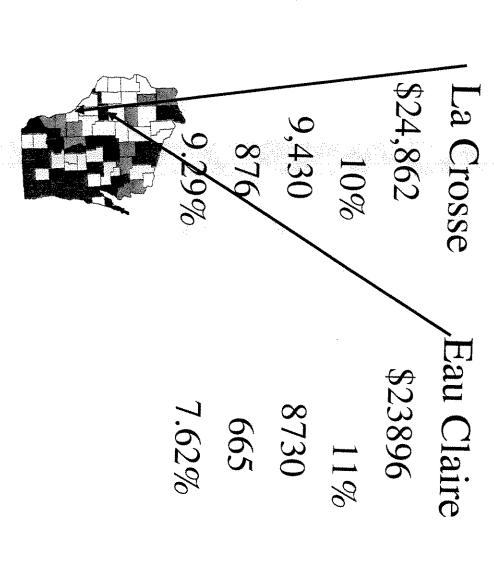
T=	0,77			
-17	8 44%	92	1090	LAFAYETTE
<u>αΙ.</u>	A 5,80%	157	1830	ASHLAND
\overline{a}	8.68%	131	1510	KEWAUNEE
5.1	8.75%	399	4560	ST. CROIX
<u></u>	8.81%	527	5980	
(0)	8.88%	531	5980	JEFFERSON
-1	8.92%	464	5200	COLUMBIA
$\overline{\Delta}$	8.94%	59	099	FLORENCE
, I	9.05%	449	4960	CHIPPEWA
T	9.23%	179	1940	PRICE
=	9.29%	876	9430	LA CROSSE
$\overline{\sim}$	9.39%	155	1650	GREEN LAKE
~1	9.51%	1,260	13250	OUTAGAMIE
7	9.52%	80	840	IRON
 1	9.55%	192	2010	SAWYER
-1	9.58%	226	2360	WAUSHARA
	9.58%	389	4060	BARRON
	9.75%	199	2040	MARQUETTE
	10.00%	170	1700	JACKSON
	10.15%	137	1350	IOWA
	10.16%	129	1270	FOREST
	10.27%	226	2200	TREMPEALEAU
	10.30%	271	2630	PERCE
	10.32%	258	2500	CLARK
	10.43%	363	3480	SHAWANO
	10.45%	187	1790	BURNETT
	10.62%	360	3390	POLK
	10.74%	174	1620	RUSK
	10.90%	327	3000	LINCOLN
	11.09%	244	2200	LANGLADE
	11.31%	147	1300	CRAWFORD
	11.31%	484	4280	MARINETTE
	11.34%	254	2240	VERNON
	11.59%	517	4460	DOUGLAS
	12.00%	228	1900	WASHBURN
	13.22%	312	2360	JUNEAU
	19.16%	749	3910	MONROE
	of June 2000.		(*) Estimated veteran population as	WISCONSIN
	W/COMP	COMP	POPULATION (*)	
	% OF POP	ACTIVE	VETERAN	COUNTY

8.42%	133	1580	TAYLOR
)ril, 00	ases as of Ap	Active Compensation Cases as of April, 00	
WOOMP	COMP	POPULATION (*)	

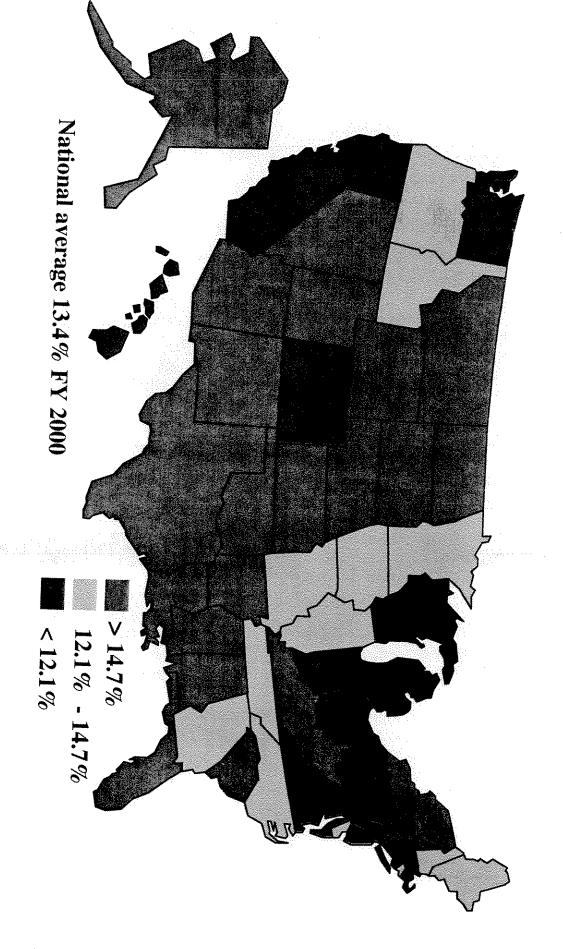
2.4.2.70			1
0.75%	30,350	4/3300	National Avo
0.40%	303 00	0202	STATE TOT
0.007	101	Ocac Ocac	CALIMET
700g Z	150	2580	ADAMS
5.97%	92	1540	RICHLAND
6.38%	646	10120	SHEBOYGAN
6.41%	205	3200	VILAS
6,41%	501	7810	OZAUKEE
6.71%	2,354	35080	DANE
6.73%	441	6550	DODGE
6.81%	385	5650	WAUPACA
7.07%	191	2700	GREEN
7.16%	2,143	29940	WAUKESHA
7.17%	1,034	14430	WINNEBAGO
7.27%	205	2820	DOOR
7.29%	605	0869	WALWORTH
7.40%	1,188	16050	RACINE
7.43%	982	13220	KENOSHA
7.62%	665	8730	EAU CLAIRE
7.72%	44	570	PEPIN
7.73%	330	4270	GRANT
7.84%	384	4900	SAUK
7.87%		10770	MARATHON
7.91%		82960	MILWAUKEE
7.96%	1,559	19580	BROWN
7.98%		0908	WASHINGTON
7.99%	1,096	13720	ROCK
8.04%		8120	MANITOWOC
8.09%	682	8430	WOOD
8.14%	702	8620	FOND DU LAC
8.24%	257	3120	OCONTO
8.30%	439	5290	ONEIDA
8.31%	148	1780	BAYFIELD / S
8.33%	25	300	MENOMINEE
8.34%		3010	DUNU
8.36%	102	1220	BUFFALO
8.42%	133	1580	TAYLOR

A Tale of Two Counties

Per Cap Income
% Poverty
Vet Population
Comp Cases
% of Vet Pop



% Veteran Population 2000 VA Health Care Users by



STATE	Proi 2000	EV 2000*	75222	1
	Vet Pop	Vet Users	%Pon liser	
SOUTH DAKOTA	69,348	19.813	28 57%	-1
WYOMING	42,233	11,956	28.31%	
WEST VIRGINIA	184,495	43,420	23.53%	<u> </u>
ARKANSAS	242,349	54,836	22.63%	<u>z</u>]:
DC	44,502	9,529	21,41%	
MISSISSIPPI	217,638	45,887	21.08%	<u>.</u>
NEW MEXICO	162,674	33,965	20.88%	<u> </u>
MONTANA	87,768	18,111	20.64%	ΖĪ
NEVADA	183,307	35,855	19.56%	
NORTH DAKOTA	53,743	10,322	19.21%	진
NEBKASKA	154,808	29,544	19.08%	≤
IDAHO	105,200	19,556	18.59%	Ö
OKLAHOMA	318,194	56,973	17.91%	ΞĪ
LOUISIANA	341,920	60,950	17.83%	≦ :
KENTUCKY	345,401	60,619	17.55%	∏
ALASKA	62,078	10,687	17.22%	Ω,
SOUTH CAROLINA	362,840	61,943	17.07%	₹
VERMON	59,265	9,985	16.85%	S
ALABAMA	402,807	64,452	16.00%	위
AKIZONA	437,653	69,658	15,92%	\$
KANICAC	1,533,920	239,462	15.61%	3
NANOAS	241,300	36,912	15.30%	到
NEW YORK	1,390,557	208,395	14.99%	S
FLORIDA	1,632,380	242,406	14.85%	AT.
CIAH	126,504	18,748	14.82%	<u>≅</u>
TOWA	268,435	39,504	14.72%	╝
course is: WA Oract I -	:			2000

* 50.000	source is: VA Great Lakes Health
5	>
?	~
_	(i)
•.	eat
	Lakes
	akes Health Care System
	Care
1	Ş
0.00	#em

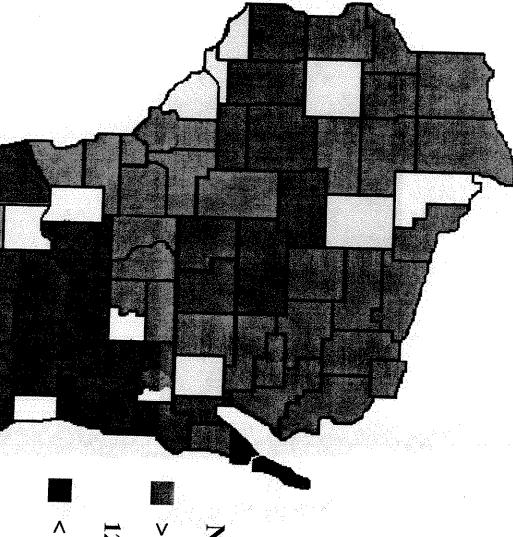
^{*} note: FY2000 Users as of Oct 6, 2000

13 36%	3.245.273	24,289,367	IULAIS
8.39%	74,139	883,196	GAN
9.16%	61,002	666,051	אוסטוס אין
9.81%	257,451	2,623,444	VALIFORNIA
10.23%	11,325	110,710	PAVAII
10.65%	53,017	497,944	WARYLAND
10.87%	65,184	599,526	WASHINGTON
10.99%	121,484	1,105,323	
11.26%	34,472	306,217	CONNECTICUT
11.27%	60,448	536,146	MASSACHUSETTS
11.47%	41,017	357,591	COLORADO
11.51%	76,897	668,378	VIRGINIA
11,77%	55,708	473,253	WISCONSIN
11.79%	65,465	555,376	INDIANA
12.03%	151,488	1,259,223	PENNSYLVANIA
12.05%	51,864	430,279	MINNESCIA
12.30%	12,280	99,824	ROADISLAND
12.32%	120,660	979,115	ILLINOIS
12.77%	86,301	675,655	NOR H CAROLINA
13.29%	86,966	654,438	GEORGIA
13.46%	47,326	351,526	OREGON
13.51%	9,995	73,971	DELAWARE
13.58%	17,406	128,206	NEW HAMPSHIRE
14.20%	77,743	547,672	MISSOURI
14.21%	20,787	146,283	MAINE
14.60%	71,360	488,701	TENNESSEE
%Pop User	Vet Users	Vet Pop	
FY 2000	FY 2000*	Proj 2000	STATE

National VA Health Care Users by % Veterans Population

Wisconsin VA Healthcare Users

by % Veteran Population



National Average 13.4%

>14.7%

12.1% - 14.7%

<12.1%

COUNTY

FLORENCE JUNEAU

MONROE

						-	L																											***************************************				
	1,654	4,060	2,621	1,940	1,539	1,781	3,200	5,289	2,010	2,199	1,093	1,618	2,043	1,509	3,477	1,304	9,432	303	3,000	2.497	3,391	2,362	2,199	5,649	4,460	1,903	2,576	3,123	1.793	2 242	839	1,697	1.273	4 279	2357	663	3 045	Proj 2000
	227	559	374	284	226	266	487	818	318	348	174	262	333	246	607	237	1 739	56	558	471	640	452	437	1.185	939	408	565	525	404	508	222	484	354	1 227	372	214	ver Users	FY 2000
10.770	13 7%	13.8%	14.3%	14.6%	14.7%	14.9%	15.2%	15.5%	15.8%	15.8%	15.9%	16.2%	16.3%	16.3%	17.5%	18 2%	18.4%	18 50%	18.6%	1800/	18 9%	10 10%	19 9%	21.0%	21 1%	21.4%	21.0%	24.0%	20, 50,	703 00	76 200	77 30/	27 80/	31.0%	34.070	39.1%	Snare	FY 2000
Induction Whetage	National Arras	Totals	OZAUKEE	WAUKESHA	WASHINGTON	SHEBOYGAN	PORTAGE	FOND DU LAC	MARATHON	EAU CLAIRE	DANE	WALWORTH	DUNN	WINNEBAGO	RACINE	BROWNI CANCO	MANITONNO!	EEEE BOOM	0000	2000	X 2000	TAVIO	GREEN		CBANT	CHIDDEIM		DOOD A	VENOSEA VENOSEA	CALIC	שורגייל אירטערה	MINALES	BUEENIO	ANT AND	COLAGAIVIE	OWA OWA		COUNTY
ige																																						
	4/3,300	479 300	7 800	200,0	8 064	10 123	2,080	8,620	10 766	8 734	35 079	8 070	3 000	14,433	19,5/6	8,117	5,981	13,715	4,558	8,427	1,579	2,/04	0,24/	4,265	4,957	5,203	2,819	13,221	4,903	2,632	82,964	1,215	1,833	568	13,249	1,345	Vet Pop	Proj 2000
	55,708	343	1,007	423	200	404	353	663	844	106'7	2 024					***************************************		1,339		831			681		552		324				10				1,737		Vet Users	FY 2000
13,40%	11.8%	4.4%	5.1%	5.2%									8.7%		9.0%		9.3%		9.8%	9.9%		10.4%						0 11.8%	11.8%			7 12.9%				0 13,4%	Share	FY 2000

SHAWANO KEWAUNEE

MENOMINEE LA CROSSE CRAWFORD CLARK

LINCOLN

POLK

WAUSHARA

LANGLADE

DOUGLAS WAUPACA

WASHBURN

BURNETT OCONTO ADAMS JACKSON IRON

MARINETTE FOREST

VERNON

RUSK

MARQUETTE

Wisconsin VA Health care Users
Percent veterans population by county

GREEN LAKE

CALUMET BARRON

PRICE

BAYFIELD RICHLAND ONEIDA

VILAS

SAWYER .

LAFAYETTE TREMPEALEAU

If Wisconsin was at the national average:

Compensation and Pension

6,270 More Veterans - \$66,525,000 Federal Dollars

VA Health Care Users

7,700 More Users - \$75,500,000 Federal Dollars

Total Additional Federal Dollars to Wisconsin

\$142,025,000

Summary

- that Wisconsin would not rank high National data analysis supports the conclusion
- State County by County data analysis does not rank low. support the conclusion that Wisconsin should
- The goal is to raise Wisconsin to at least the national average level (9.25%)
- The current national average level is low.
- Customer service is the dominant variable.

Budget Initiative

- Establish 6 Regional Service Delivery Centers.
- Increase the capabilities of Regional Coordinators. (currently four)
- Train regional personnel to be claims specialists.
- employment and housing) services to veterans. (includes education, training, state and local resources that provide benefits and Perform regional coordination among all federal,
- Consider co-location with selected County Veterans Service Offices.







STATE OF WISCONSIN

Memorandum to Joint Committee on Finance

SENATE CHAIR BRIAN BURKE

Assembly Chair **John Gard**

Statement of Roy C. LaBudde, Co-Chairman Wisconsin Veterans War Memorial / Milwaukee, Inc. 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Thank you very much for an opportunity to deliver this short message to the Joint Committee on Finance of the State of Wisconsin. I appear as Co-Chairman and on behalf of the Wisconsin Veterans War Memorial / Milwaukee, Inc., a non-profit organization headquartered at the War Memorial at 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Our organization is presently engaged in renovating and remodeling the War Memorial Building on the lakefront. This plan has been broken down into two parts:

First, remodeling, redecorating and renovation of the third and fourth floor, including offices and the great hall, involving the installation of elevators and remodeling of the common areas and restrooms. This phase is complete.

Second, construction of a War Education Center to be located under the Lincoln Memorial Bridge in about 45,000 square feet of empty space now substantially unutilized. The mission of the Center will be to educate the public, particularly young people, on the nature of war, its causes and results. The exhibits and programs will neither glorify war in the Hollywood

fashion nor rule out war under all circumstances no matter how our country is threatened.

Rather, war will be presented as it really is: a high price, which sometimes has to be paid to create and preserve our national freedoms at home and our interests throughout the world.

Such an Education Center is an exciting project. It is presently undergoing study as to its scope, method of operation, and mechanics and engineering of its construction. The proposed location is ideal. It has no windows and is adjacent to the War Memorial Building under the roadway just to the west. The project will involve creation of a new entrance, perhaps a covered drop-off court, the Education Center itself, served by an adjacent parking structure to be built for up to 300 cars, just east of the Lincoln Memorial Bridge. That structure will not be intrusive, but will be level with the main floor of the War Memorial, known as Fitch Plaza. The top will be attractively landscaped, perhaps with a sculpture garden, benches, walks and even some grass and shrubbery, giving a much more pleasing visual effect than the present parking lot to the east of the bridge.

Not a museum in any conventional sense of that word, the Education Center will be proactive, involving computerization, participatory exhibits and a progressive series of experiences that visitors can go through. It is hoped that when built it would be a tourist destination as well as comprising a very attractive field day trip for students. The Schooner Project and, of course, the wonderful Calatrava Art Museum addition are already two attractions in this area and the Education Center will be a third.

At present, about 800,000 people visit the War Memorial each year, but the Education Center would vastly increase that number which could easily be doubled given the capacity of the facilities.

Preliminary planning is being conducted now, involving interviews, discussions and submissions, including schematic renderings by consulting firms experienced in designing and building exhibits, and also submissions by architectural and engineering firms to accomplish the structural portion. The entire project, including the parking structure, could cost between \$35-\$40 million. At least half of this amount we expect to raise in the private sector on a well orchestrated major campaign, scheduled begin later this year.

The Education Center concept has been widely acclaimed as being beneficial and appropriate to carry out the mission of the War Memorial which is to the "Honor the Dead by Serving the Living". How better can the living be served than by an Education Center to make people, particularly young persons, aware of the nature of war? The project has already received strong support from the editorial staff of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, which ran a favorable editorial comment on January 27, 2001 (copy attached).

In summary, let me say that those of us working to support this initiative believe firmly that the Center will tell a story of veterans' services and sacrificing, with individual stories of men and women serving as sailors, marines, flyers or aircraft support, coast guard and in the army. What they have done for the country will be portrayed in a realistic and impressive fashion. The home front effort, particularly during World War II, will be portrayed with

emphasis on Wisconsin war production and the entry of large numbers of women into the work force. Such functions would make the proposed Education Center unique in the entire midwest, and would allow the War Memorial Building to accomplish its goal in a most beneficial and complete manner.

Brigadier General Robert Cocroft, Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, is a member of our Board of Directors; and he is Chairman of the Committee responsible for designing and constructing the Education Center exhibit area. His leadership and enthusiasm for the project are very inspiring and he brings unique skills to this effort.

The Wisconsin Veterans War Memorial / Milwaukee, Inc. fully supports the use of a reasonable amounts of the Veteran's Trust Fund for the design and construction of the Education Center. Use of that source for partial funding is entirely consist with the Trust fund's purposes to benefit U.S. Veterans – in this case by graphic displays of what they did in twentieth century wars. It is possible that these costs could be recouped over time by the Trust. There is no need to burden GPR with cost or expense for this project.

JOURNAL SENTINEL

Weekly laurels and laments

Over the years, billions of federal dollars have been squandered on dubious military ventures. It's good to see some of Uncle Sam's shekels end up in the right place in this case, the War Memorial Center, Milwaukee's striking Eero Saarinen-designed tribute to our veterans. Organizers of a badly needed effort to renovate the lakefront center have secured \$2.4 million in federal funds to pay off the first phase and provide seed money for the second. The \$25 million second phase will include a new entrance, a parking structure and a new interactive visitor and education center. A major fundraising campaign will begin soon. Digging deep is a great way to show appreciation to those who have fought for the freedoms we all cherish.

Naval Militia

Chairman Burke, Members of the committee, Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for the opportunity to present a matter of which I consider of vital importance to the security of the citizens of the state of Wisconsin.

My name is Bill Lemorande. I am a Retired Naval Commander who was asked to do a "feasibility study" on the possibility for a "Naval Militia". My study has been completed and implementation is now in the hands of the legislature.

The key question is: Should the state of Wisconsin have a Naval Militia and is it affordable?

The states of New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Alaska all have Naval Militias and have seen the advantages and I believe it is a "natural" for our state as well.

The History of the Naval Militia in Wisconsin goes back to turn of the century. It was formed for the purpose of Port Security in the town of Ashland Wisconsin in 1909. Its members would eventually serve proudly in World Wars One and Two.

The situation in Wisconsin today, is not so different than it was in 1909 when the first Naval Militia was formed for the protection of individuals and property. Today's threats come from natural disasters such as flooding as we see taking place in LaCrosse and in the western part of our state. From threats of foot and mouth disease, like we are seeing in Europe. And from terrorism. Milwaukee has already had many Anthrax scares. Iraq used biological agents to kill vast numbers of Kurds in the early 1990s. The deaths from Sarin in Tokyo demonstrated the absolute chaos and fears that such a weapon inflicts upon a society. We hear the president Bush as recently as last week expressing concern, of biological weapons.

The National Guard lost its hospital units and the Naval Reserve hospital units make a perfect adjunct to the guard to fill the missing gap. This would give the guard an inexpensive fully trained group to use in the event of a biological attack.

These are volunteers, trained and highly skilled as Naval Reservists. The federal government has already paid the cost of training and equipment. Such a group would be available to the state at very little cost.

These are times of very tight money. And I personally do not want to see the state spending money wastefully. But, this is an opportunity to have on standby, the services of a group of highly skilled people for a very small amount of money. In fact I would estimate that over 50 naval reservist could be available to the state. All this for the cost of 2 full time people and one part time person as well as office expenses. That is 50 people on standby, for the price of 2 ½. That is a great deal.

I would highly recommend you consider "approval" to enact a Naval Militia for the state of Wisconsin. It is similar to an inexpensive insurance policy. Hopefully the governor would never have to use it but if the need were to occur ... it would be there.



April 20, 2000

To the State of Wisconsin, to the Leaders & Members of the Joint Committee on finance – I wish to thank you for the opportunity to voice my views and assessments at this public hearing. My name is Tom Wynn, Sr., I am here to represent the National Association for Black Veterans and the Center for Veterans Issues two National Organizations founded and headquartered here in the city of Milwaukee.

I also serve as chairman of the Milwaukee County Veteran Service Commission, as Vice-Chairman for the Milwaukee War Memorial Veterans Board and a member of the newly formed Wisconsin Veterans War Memorial Board/Milwaukee. For the past 31 years I have advocated for and served the unmet needs of Wisconsin veterans with an emphasis on the needs of Milwaukee Black, other minority and all low-income veterans.

It has always been a major concern that while the majority (51%) of Wisconsin veterans reside in southeastern Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Waukesha counties). We also have the largest minority and low-income veteran populations, yet we receive the fewer resources from the WDVA than the northwestern veterans.

The King Veterans Home in Waupaca, Wisconsin is a model facility for the nation. However it requires 4 to 7 hour travel time for southeastern veterans, their families and friends. Assisted living facilities are finally being developed for the southeastern veterans in Union Grove; it is my hope that we will eventually arrive at service parity for Southeastern Veterans. The present leadership of the WDVA, Secretary Boland and his Deputy, General Robert Cocroft, is effective, dynamic and innovative. Under their leadership, with strong support from Governor Thompson and the Wisconsin legislature, today, the WDVA is highly regarded as one of the top five state departments of veterans' affairs in America. We should all be very proud of our accomplishments and services afforded to Wisconsin Veterans.

Under the leadership arm of Boland and Cocroft, the WDVA is operated as a efficiently as any major corporation. The Veterans Trust Fund has become self-sufficient and provides all the resources necessary for it's programs and staff. While WDVA has accomplished greatness in a short amount of time, the department continues to press on to make even more positive changes for Wisconsin's veterans. The department has researched and discovered that Wisconsin veterans ranks low in USDVA disability and health benefits. They have also discovered that there is a wide difference between the counties, many counties are below the national average of the benefits receivable level. To solve this problem and bring a possible additional \$142 million per year to the Wisconsin, they have found it necessary to evaluate and reorganize problems in order to change and improve performance. To accomplish this, the "I OWE YOU" campaign, a WDVA initiative, is now a national bill introduced by Secretary Ray Boland.

The "I OWE YOU" campaign is a new service delivery initiative that adds resources at the grass roots level while continuing the present CVSO and other service delivery operations. It is clear that an enlarged, better-trained and coordinated staff is necessary for improved results.

Milwaukee County Veteran Service Office has a total of four (4) personnel, including the Director and the administrative secretary. This is only 3 service personnel to serve the needs of nearly 90,000 veterans. It is clear that we need more staff and resources. Using the Veterans Trust fund, WDVA can support regionalization, the Military Honors Program (Honoring the Dead) and dental care service for low-income veterans. These additional services will improve the lives of veterans, their families and the community. All of these services can be added by utilizing veteran trust fund dollars and at no cost to GPR funds, at a time when the state budget is experiencing difficulties.

Our WDVA can and will be self- sustained. Please, please allow us to Honor the Dead by Serving the Living, while being Veterans in Unity with the Community.